RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 30th December, 1993

The House met at eleven of the clock, THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

CORRECTING THE REPLY TO S. Q. NO. 124 ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 1993

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : Madam, I beg to correct the statement laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 10th December, 1993 in reply to the Starred Question No. 124 (Priority No. 4) regarding completion of Sardar Sarovar Project Dam in Gujarat as follows :

Part of the answer (e) & (f) .....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You need not read it out. You just lay it on the Table.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a statement correcting the answer to the Starred Question No. 124 answered in the Rajya Sabha on 10th December, 1993 regarding completion of Sardar Sarovar Project Dam in Gujarat. (Placed in Library. *See No. LT-5261/93*).

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

CORRECTING THE REPLY TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 635 ANSWERED ON 30TH APRIL, 1993.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th April, 1993 to Unstarred Question 635 regarding flats and bungalows occupied by ex-Members of Parliament, former Ministers, etc. (Placed in Library. *See No. LT-5262/93*).

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH (MAHARASHTRA) : Madam Deputy Chairman, I seek your protection. This is correcting the reply to my Unstarred Question of 30th April in which there were certain inaccuracies, if I may be permitted to put it. I have given notice of breach of privilege on 12th May. It took some time between the Secretariat of the House and the Ministry and after my reminder on 16th August the Secretariat sent me the reply of the Minister. By my letter of 19th August I pointed out the inaccuracies in that also. I sent a reminder on 4th September on the breach of privilege notice. I sent another reminder on 15th December on the breach of privilege notice. So far that has not been decided. The point is whether this hon. House should eight months after a reply was given and after a breach of privilege notice was given, let the Minister correct the inaccuracies. The House was misinformed. I am not saying that it was done deliberately. It is for the Privileges Committee to find it out. I can understand the first correction on another matter because it was on 10th December and it is being corrected on 30th December. That is understandable. It is my information even this reply contains some factual inaccuracies. So, my submission is that if this hon. House is to be given replies which are not accurate and for which action cannot be taken, it is only the Chairperson who can give protection to the House and see that the Ministers give correct replies. If the replies are not correct, let the Privileges Committee be seized of it. After eight months some kind of a, if I may be permitted to say, whitewashing effort is on. There was a half-an-hour discussion on this very subject last